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CIA gremlins are at work leftist SDS offshoot cries

By Antero Pietila

From Baltimore to New York, from London to Milan, members of the National Caucus of Labor Committees will have you believe that somebody like Barbara A. Mikulski is not a reformist city councilwoman from East Baltimore.

No, she is a "dupe" or an "operative" of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Ditto for Representative Parren J. Mitchell (D., 7th), Imamu Baraka, the Newark (N.J.) playwright and black nationalist, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, of Chicago, and scores of other public figures.

Moreover, according to this offshoot group of the moribund Students for a Democratic Society, the CIA was behind the recent truckers strike and masterminded the kidnapping of Patricia C. Hearst, daughter of the newspaper magnate, though the Symbionese Liberation Army, one of the CIA's "countless fronts."

To most people, this interpretation is poppycock.

Revealed gospel

But to the members of the increasingly radical national caucus, this world view is as clear and true as revealed gospel.

Whether through its weekly newspaper, New Solidarity, or in daily leaflet distributions at several Baltimore factory gates and schools, or interviews with a reporter at the group's regional headquarters at 217 East 25th Street here, the caucus firmly holds the following:

That conspiracies such as those mentioned above demonstrate how far the CIA and the Rockefellers have gone in joint effort to bring chaos that would ensure their control of worldwide economies—and of people's minds.

The transmutation of the National Caucus of Labor Committees—once a serious, small group of Marxist radicals—into an even smaller band of firebrands and paranoia has increasingly intrigued observers of the left lately.

One recent episode that recently attracted national attention involved one of its members who slipped a desperate note out the window of a New York apartment where she was being held by her own comrades.

Police later learned her comrades had decided the young woman had been "brainwashed" by the CIA and wanted to "de-program" her mind. In some other known cases, such "de-programming" has included not only interrogation, but physical and sexual abuse—even homosexual rape.

1,000 U.S. members

Although its regional Maryland, District of Columbia and Virginia headquarters is in Baltimore, its local membership is only about 40, according to the group's own figures.

The best known local member is A. Robert Kaufman, a professional socialist of many past lost causes.

Despite its size, the Baltimore branch has made its presence known by daily distributing leaflet and proselytizing at plants such as Bethlehem Steel and Armco Steel and schools such as Poly-Western and Carver.

Last October, its members' presence at Morgan State College provoked a situation which—according to both sides—nearly ended as a riot. ("White Thugs Attack Black Coeds," a ghetto newspaper, The Black Dispatch, later headlined its account.)

Although most of the National Caucus of Labor Committee's members here and elsewhere are white and the organization itself attacks various affirmative action programs as "CIA attempts to pitch black workers against whites," its Seventh district congressional candidate, Charles Henry, 29, is black.

So is a woman often seen manning the headquarters "communications center," wearing a green, self-styled army uniform.

Through that "communications center," the Baltimore

group receives its daily advisories on latest conspiracies and the progress of the group's efforts to expose them.

A recent advisory (timed at 0400 hours) complained that in seven days, despite an emergency mobilization, the movement nationwide had raised only \$9,000 most of it from monthly dues.

"We have been putting off major printing paper and shipping bills, which could mean a cutting off of our propaganda flow at any point," the advisory complained. "Any cutback in our operation means the collective suicide of the human race."

How the group has got along financially even this far with its expensive publications and widening activities is a mystery to many observers, although some wealthier members—the daughter of the president of Sarah Lawrence College and the son of a vice president of the Ford Foundation are among members—are known to have spent their trust funds on caucus activities.

Yet, local members were told that during the week ending March 13, the group's total income was \$41.85—all from selling newspapers and literature. No contributions or pledges were recorded.

CIA "fronts"

In its conspiracy charges, the caucus very seldom claims direct CIA involvement. Rather, it says the CIA is using fronts.

One of those supposed fronts is the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, President Nixon's coordination unit for innovative methods in crime prevention, including certain psychological and psychoanalytical approaches in rehabilitating criminals and helping crime victims.

Since the agency recently gave funds to a rape study group sponsored by city Councilwoman Mikulski (D., 1st), she became "a CIA dupe" in the eyes of the local labor committee caucus.

Similar charges—based on been hurled against Mr. Baraka and Mr. Jackson and several others.

As for M. Mitchell, Maryland's first black congressman, although he is "not funded by the CIA," (he) is clearly a dupe of the CIA.

The lack of clear evidence for any of these charges does not bother the group's members. They are true believers, the chosen few.

Mr. Henry, the group's candidate against Mr. Mitchell in the congressional race, explains:

"You have to understand that we have an understanding. In other words, there are certain indelible marks of a CIA operation that as soon as you hear about something you get the general modus operandi of the thing."

"Fatal internal flaw"

This "understanding" was developed by the National Caucus's ideological leader, a former Trotskyite calling himself Lyn Marcus.

He claims to have been given "preliminary exposure" to psychoanalytical techniques he sees as "indispensable auxiliary means for directly overcoming the fatal internal flaw of all socialist organizations, Lenin's included."

The special "understanding" makes it possible for the National Caucus of Labor Committees to explain the Hearst kidnapping as a CIA plot in the following way: The suspects were escapers from a California state prison that had received Law Enforcement Assistance Administration funding for its behavior modification program.

But beyond that, there is another link, Mr. Henry continued. "The Symbionese Liberation Army's principles are the same as Imamu Baraka's..."

"Does that make them CIA?" an incredulous visitor asked.

Steve Cohn, 22, a caucus firebrand who said he is a clerical worker for the city Department of Public Works, retorted:

"I mean, how much do you know?"

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01291 NCLC
01291 SLA (Symbionese Liberation Army)
MARCUS, LYN

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